

# Soviet Aid Requested For Bronx

A nine-member delegation from the Soviet Union trudged around the rubble of Charlotte Street in the South Bronx yesterday and visited the exact site where, two and a half years ago, President Carter pledged Federal support to rebuild the inner city.

They were guided by a New York City Councilman, Gilberto Gerena-Valentin, a Democrat from the area.

"This is where President Carter stood and talked about saving the South Bronx," the Councilman told his guests, all of them members of the Soviet Peace Committee, as he pointed across the broken bricks toward the hollow tenements a few blocks away.

"What I am doing is asking the Soviet Government, through the Soviet Peace Committee, for \$5 billion in foreign aid to rebuild the South Bronx," Mr. Gerena-Valentin said. The committee is a non-governmental organization that, in the words of its chairman, "is concerned with arousing Soviet public opinion on the issues of war and peace."

After President Carter's widely publicized visit to Charlotte Street in October 1977, Mayor Koch proposed a \$32 million housing project for 732 families on Charlotte Street, a plan that was rejected in February 1979 by the Board of Estimate.

Members of the delegation stood listening to the clipped translation of the Councilman's summary of the area's history. But for the most part they huddled in small groups, quietly and uncomfortably surveying the destruction around them. "It seems like it was bombed," one delegate whispered in Russian to another.



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**Councilman Gilberto Gerena-Valentin, wearing sunglasses, at right, shows Soviet visitors part of South Bronx**

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